

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 041433 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8330
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3536

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI READING OF EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 3275 NOTAL; TEL AVIV DAO 301315 Z APR NOTAL

1. PRIME MINISTER MEIR IN WIDERANGING INFORMAL REMARKS MAY 3 AT PARTY MEETING COMMENTED IN GRAVE TONE ABOUT POSSIBILITY SADAT WILL RESUME HOSTILITIES. " I AM NOT AT ALL PREPARED TO SAY WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THIS WILL NOT BE, EVEN IF IT IS UTTERLY ILLOGICAL... IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF US TO OPERATE BY THE RULES OF LOGIC AND CALCULATE THAT BECAUSE HE CANNOT WIN, IT CANNOT HAPPEN."

2. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE (REFTELS) THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES LOOK UPON CHANCES OF EGYPT'S INITIATING HOSTILITIES IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS SMALL. ISRAELIS SEE CURRENT EGYPTIAN MOVES AS
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ALL PART OF BUILDUP FOR FORTHCOMING UNSC DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. WHAT EGYPTIANS WANT-- AND SERIOUSLY EXPECT-- TO GET OUT OF DEBATE IS NOT CLEAR TO ISRAELIS, NOR ARE THEY OFFERING ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW SADAT WILL PROTECT HIMSELF IF, THROUGH CURRENT THREATS FOLLOWED BY SHARP UNSC DEBATE, HE RAISES ARAB EXPECTATIONS OF IMPORTANT CHANGES IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, AND THEN ACHIEVES NOTHING.

3. DESPITE OUNIXON FIRST SET FORTH IN 1969. I DO NOT WANT THE TRIP CHARACTERIZED AS A GOOD WILL MISSION.

3. I EXPECT TO BE MAKING THE FOREGOING CLEAR IN THE COURSE OF THE TRIP. BUT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THESE OBJECTIVES WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD IN ADVANCE. THUS, I WANT YOU AND YOUR PRINCIPAL ADVISERS, INCLUDING YOUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISER, TO MAKE THESE OBJECTIVES CLEAR TO GOVT OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC OPINION LEADERS. BELOW FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE IS A SUMMARY OF POINTS I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MAKE:

-- THE TRIP IS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES' CONTINUED INTEREST IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE HEMISPHERE. THERE IS A MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE SOMEHOW LOST INTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE. OUR DECISION FOUR YEARS AGO TO SEEK A LESS INTRUSIVEROLE IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS, RELYING MORE HEAVILY ON LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVES IN A RELATIONSHIP OF EQUALITY HAS BEEN ERRONEOUSLY PERCEIVED BY SOME AS AN ATTEMPT TO DISENGAGE FROM OUR HEMISPHERIC ASSOCIATES. IN FACT, OUR POLICY HAS BEEN JUST THE OPPOSITE. IT HAS BEEN AIMED AT ENGAGING WITH LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS IN A REALISTIC MANNER WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGED ATTITUDES AND INCREASED CAPACITIES WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE. THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE U. S. EFFORT TO BUILD FURTHER A RELATIONSHIP, BASED ON MUTUALITY AND EQUALITY.

-- IF OUR ASSOCIATION IS TO REACH ITS TRUE POTENTIAL IT
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